



American College of Surgeons

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February 21, 2001

The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

The Fellows of the American College of Surgeons appreciate the leadership that you have taken on the "Patients' Bill of Rights" issue. As one of the leaders in this debate, we felt that you would be interested in the attached letter that the American College of Surgeons recently sent to President Bush. The letter highlights the protections that we believe must be included in any Patients' Bill of Rights legislation.

Of particular note, the letter emphasizes the College's concern regarding a proposed solution to the issue of health plan liability. As stated on page two of the letter, the American College of Surgeons believes that it would be unfair to enact a Patients' Bill of Rights that caps damages for suits brought against health plans without also capping damages for suits brought against physicians and other health care practitioners and providers.

We look forward to working with you to pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Washington office at (202) 337-2701.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS
Executive Director

attachment

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